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# Pelham PTAC Meeting of the Association

Thursday, September 8, 2022 8:45AM

## ATTENDEES:

### PTAC Board:

Annemarie Garcia, President  
Tiffany Hebert, Vice President  
Suzanne Snyder, Treasurer  
Kristen Whalen, Secretary  
Melissa Labonte, Communications Chair  
Allison Anderson, Community Engagement Co-Chair  
Chanell Bradford, Community Engagement Co-Chair

### Association and Guests:

Dr. Cheryl Champ	Kate Carpenter	Paulina Berti	Anthea Kelsick
Traci Holtz	Lisa Horton	Jessica Russo	Amy Lienert
Dr. Alice Bowman	Allison Frost	Suany Aquino	Marjut Herzog
Dr. Michael Owen-Michaane	David Sparano	Adrienne Kiamie	
Jennie Utsinger	Alex Wolff	Stephanie Otero	
Kim Melloy	Antoinette Vitale	Monika Konieczna	
Dr. Dashima Carthen-Brown	Liselle Sakhrani	Silmara Sucena	
Nandini Anandu	Pilar Bartlett	Katie Caufield	<b>TOTAL= 37</b>
Laura Caruso	Leah Tahbaz	Kristy Rebele	

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## Call to Order – 8:47AM – Annemarie Garcia

Welcome, getting started we'll jump right over to Dr. Champ. Let's save all questions until the end.

### Dr. Champ Update:

- ★ Good Morning
- ★ Staff Retreat and Return to work
  - Exciting
  - First time we're back in person all together since 2019
- ★ Hoping to start a New Chapter
- ★ Recentering our focus
  - Teaching/Learning
  - Full Attention to core instruction
  - Innovation
- ★ Reclaiming our Motto
  - Inspiring a Standard of Excellence
    - Stakeholder meetings
    - Push Out Communications
- ★ ReDirecting
  - Initial Planning
  - Establishing relationships
  - Getting back to Face-to-Face
  - In-Person Relationships
    - Forging
    - Re-establishing
    - strengthening
- ★ Introduction of Traci Holtz
  - Traci Holtz - Asst. Superintendent of PPS
    - 6 years in Mt. Pleasant
    - 20th year in Westchester schools
    - Currently meeting with all Boards and Facilities
    - Hopes to engage families of the youngest learners
- ★ Introduction of Alice Bowman
  - Alice Bowman - Asst. Superintendent of Teaching and Learning
  - 22 years in Long Island Schools

- Most Recently, middle school Principal
  - Just completed a very successful 9th Grade Orientation
  - First Day KINDERGARTEN - NO CRYING KIDS!!!!
  - Super Positive Energy
  - Focusing on Professional building and education
  - Thanks to PTAC for providing Breakfast
  - Excited to be part of the Pelham Family
- ★ Dr. Champ - excited to have fresh perspectives - refreshing and enlightening

## 9:01AM - Dr. Champ (cont)

### -Overview of Summer Programs-

- ★ K-8 Elementary
- ★ K-5 ESY Extended Summer - Prevent regression
- ★ Able to be held at Hutchinson - Air Conditioning!!
- ★ Summer Stars- Title I Funds (Hutch)
  - Academic support for grade level standards
  - Enrollment Past years = 40-45
  - This year's enrollment =70
  - ELA and Math
  - Reinforcing core skills
- ★ Middle School
  - Earth Science Boot Camp - Prep for Regents retake
    - ALL students are able to move on to Living Environment
  - ELA and Math

### -Facilities-

- ★ Student workers/interns helping Custodial and Tech teams
- ★ Cleaning, painting, stripping floors
- ★ Language Lab completely renovated
- ★ Working on Playgrounds
  - Waiting on new equipment
  - Budget - hiring consultants for playground renovations
- ★ Bonds
  - Hutchinson
    - Field- sod needs time to stitch/set. Cannot be opened yet
    - framework for Pocket Park completed
    - Upper grade playground almost done. Wtng for equipment
    - Waiting for clearance for Teachers Parking Lot to open
  - Prospect Hill
    - 4th grade classroom

- Double Door Security newly installed
- Elevator to make fully accessible
- Lift/Ramp installed
- PMHS
  - Scaffolding down in front
  - Detail work to still be completed
  - Wtng on cabinets for Art rooms
  - Offices not yet ready

### **-Safety Updates-**

- ★ Redoubling efforts
- ★ Eliminate complacency
- ★ Utilize only Main Doors
- ★ Classroom handles in Lock Position at ALL TIMES
- ★ Transitioning back to normal Lock Down Drills
  - Currently meeting with Police Departments to draw up schedule
  - Attempt to limit anxiety
- ★ Lanyards
  - Must be worn and display Student IDs
  - Color coded by grade
  - Due to multiple doors and Open Campus
  - For access and exit
  - Provides a visual aid to staff
- ★ Freshman - Closed Campus this year
- ★ Restrictions on cell phones to be strongly emphasized
  - Need full student engagement

### **-MS/HS Code of Conduct-**

- ★ Updated and emphasized
- ★ No Bare Midriffs - Boys and Girls
- ★ Appropriate clothing for school

### **-Space-**

- ★ Limited Cafeteria space
- ★ Cannot unfortunately be expanded
- ★ There are alternate areas
- ★ Have students see their counselors if any issues

### **-Covid Protocols-**

- ★ Updated protocols
- ★ No Contact Tracing any longer

- ★ General notifications if a large number of cases
- ★ General notification if within same class or close contact
- ★ If positive/No symptoms - 5 days out, back on day 6 w/mask
- ★ No test to return required
- ★ With Symptoms- 2 negative home tests or neg PCR to return

### **-DEI-**

- ★ Coordinator - Search continues
- ★ Want the right person

### **-Pizza Day-**

- ★ Coming Back!
- ★ Couple of weeks to get staff in
- ★ Pelham Pizza will return!

## **QUESTIONS?**

**Q: Can the Summer Program be extended to all students who feel they need it?**

**A: Title I funds these programs and the funds MUST be utilized for a specific purpose which was targeted by the data.**

**This is a great idea but would take planning and staff**

**Q: There was a Social Media thread encouraging girls to protest the dress code by wearing said articles. Have you or the staff seen any fallout from that?**

**A: Fortunately we have not seen that come to fruition. There were a handful of students on day 1 or 2 but not significant, and students may not have been aware.**

**Q: Will there be Gluten Free Pizza available?**

**A: We will check/work on that.**

**Q: Will exposure to a Covid positive asymptomatic person require testing? Or will non-covid symptoms still require a negative covid test?**

**A: I would say that the School Nurses know your kids and can help you navigate those situations**

**Q: Playground vandalism culprits?**

**A: Reach out to principals if you have any info**

**Dave Sparano: Students input for what they want for the playgrounds going forward.**

**Ways to help substitute teachers be prepared w/safety protocols? \*\*Grounds are looking fantastic !!**

**Lockdowns/Drills , additional training for subs - Dr. Champ to follow up**

**-9:29AM-**

**Q: What is the point of the Regents, if you're not from NY?**

**A: The Regents have been around for a century and are unique to NY, recognized mostly only with NYS and SUNY/CUNY schools. Perfect timing to be questioning the necessity. Dr. Bowman to explain (can put together a schematic).**

**Colleges are also currently reviewing the necessity, additionally, for the ACT and SAT**

**-9:33AM-**

## **Board of Education Update: Dr. Michael Owen-Michaane, President**

- ★ Very excited for the First Day
- ★ Updated contract with Whitsons for Pizza Day
- ★ Academic Excellence
  - What does that mean in 2022?
    - Athletics
    - Arts
    - Academics
    - Strategic Planning
    - Community Service
    - Cultural Competence
- ★ Dig into Finances and Facilities
  - Schools are historical and beautiful
  - Requires maintenance, repairs, upgrades
  - Need to develop a long range plan that can be explained to and supported by the community.
- ★ Liaison to Siwanoy - Will Treves
- ★ Updated report pending - safety protocols for Contractors

- ★ Regents - Board and Dr. C reviewed all Regents and NYS testing data
  - Dr. Bowman helped to highlight important data
- ★ Meeting with multiple committees
  - Finance committee meeting this week
  - Auditing report pending - looks positive
- ★ Digital Citizenship initiative

**Q: Can BoE send committee applications to PTA to support sharing?**

**A: Yes**

**-9:43AM-**

## **President's Report - Annemarie Garcia**

- ★ Member Hub
  - Please update new reps and officers
- ★ Leadership Page on FB - link in agenda
- ★ Resource Guide - link in agenda
- ★ ByLaws
  - Expiring
  - Email is going out with update
  - 1 issue to review
    - Increase in unit dues
  - 30 days to review and vote
  - Must pass each unit  $\frac{2}{3}$  majority
  - PTAC will review votes
- ★ Please send Unit membership links to Annemarie so she can share them further via PTAC

**- 9:46AM-**

## **June Minutes**

- ★ Any changes? No
- ★ Melissa made motion to approve
- ★ Kristen seconded the motion
- ★ Minutes approved

## Budget – Suzanne Snyder, Treasurer

- ★ Review of proposed budget
  - Unit Dues increase
  - Moderator for BoE (keep in case)
  - Advertising (we aren't using) - adding back into the budget
  - Communication budget - adding back into the budget
  - Extend funds to :
    - Scholarships
    - Pelham Together - what donation will go to - mental health subsidy
    - Superintendent Breakfast- had to be increased due to inflation
      - AMG - costs have skyrocketed - quotes for coffee were equal to quotes for food
      - Dr. C - Thank you for the breakfast, it makes a huge impact on the staff

**PMHS PTA: Re: Pelham Together Donation, need transparency / clarification as to what the money is going towards**

**Laura Caruso (PT): We will tie the money to a specific mental health initiative and info will be transparent**

- ★ Suzanne asked for a motion to vote
- ★ AnneMarie moved to vote
- ★ Melissa seconded
- ★ Y=12, N=0
- ★ Budget Approved

**-9:57AM-**

## Communications – Melissa Labonte

- ★ Focus on Family Engagement
- ★ Requested info from units
- ★ Community Partners
- ★ Enhance communications across the District



## Community Organizations

- ★ Pelham Together - Laura Caruso
  - Pelicones and Summer internships
  - 30 Internships
  - Thank you to all the mentors
  - Congressman Bowman visited and spoke with everyone
  - 15 kids running Pelicones
  - New Initiatives
  - Direct Service Youth Therapy
  - SW-LCSW supervised graduates
  - P/T position
  - Large Calendar - can be purchased at Art Ctr, Flour Power, J Cafe', at all first unit meetings

**-10:01AM-**

- ★ Pelham Education Foundation - Kate Carpenter
  - First meeting next week
  - Distributed books to all incoming K students - "All Are Welcome"
  - Looking forward to a great year
- ★ Pelham Recreation - Not Here
- ★ Project Community - Not Here
- ★ Unit Updates link in agenda - please review

**Marjut: Can the district communicate our unit membership links to the whole community?**

**Alex Wolff: Send me the info to distribute, trying to incorporate with student data**

**Have to give families the choice to Opt Out but we're not there yet. Close to data sharing**

**Leah Tahbaz: maybe do a little "Who Do I Ask?" include PTAs within newsletter**

**Dave Sparano: Friday Night Live?**

**Suzanne: They're coming back! Have to start Committee meetings.**

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**MS/HS Service hours?**

40 hrs to graduate, double check with Ms. Sabia for MS minimum requirement.

**Any organizations or services for after school Language Classes please send to us.**

**Also looking for ASL - American Sign Language Instructors.**

**-10:12AM-**

**Annemarie Garcia - Meeting is concluded / adjourned**

**Next meeting - 10/6/22 8:45AM**

**Look for email with updated By-Laws**

*Minutes respectfully submitted by Kristen G. Whalen, PTAC Secretary*